

16 Literature

Literature is any written work, but it is usually used to refer to works of fiction or novels, plays, poems, and short stories. This is because these types of works are usually seen as being more artistic and having more value than other types of writing, such as non-fiction or informational texts.

Fiction is literature created from the imagination, not presented as fact, though it may be based on a true story or situation. Fictional written works are defined by stories that are created, invented, and made up by the writer. Fictional works usually contain **plot, characters, setting, and theme**. Types of literature in the fiction genre include the **novel, short story, and novella**.

Non-fiction in literature is defined as prose writings that are based on **facts, real events, people, or places**. Non-fiction is a broad category that includes self-help books, academic textbooks, cookbooks, reference books, journalism, biographies, travel guides, parenting books, and educational resources.

Poetry is a condensed form of writing. As an art, it can effectively invoke a range of emotions in the reader. It can be presented in a number of forms — ranging from traditional **rhymed poems** such as sonnets to contemporary **free verse**.

Examples of poetry in literature:

“Sonnet 18” by William Shakespeare (1609): This classic sonnet is a beautiful and romantic tribute to the beauty of the beloved.

“The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe (1845): This famous poem is a haunting and macabre exploration of grief, loss, and the supernatural.

“The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost (1916): This famous poem is a contemplative meditation on choices, regrets, and the uncertainties of life.

Prose is verbal or written language that follows the natural flow of speech. It is the most common form of writing, used in both fiction and non-fiction. Prose refers to any written work that, unlike poetry, follows a basic grammatical structure (**words and phrases arranged into sentences and paragraphs**). Prose simply means language that follows the natural patterns found in everyday speech.

Prose can be found in novels, novellas, short stories, and plays.

- **Novel** A novel is a fictional book that is typically longer than 300 pages. It tells a story, usually in chronological order, and has characters and settings that are developed over the course of the story. Novels are often divided into chapters, which help to break up the story and make it easier to read.

Novels are one of the most popular genres of literature, and there are many different types of novels that you can read. Whether you’re looking for a romance novel, a mystery novel, or a historical fiction novel, there’s sure to be a book out there that you’ll love.

Examples of novels in literature:

“Robinson Crusoe” by Daniel Defoe (1719) – This novel is considered one of the earliest examples of the English novel and is a tale of survival and self-reliance. It follows the story of a man named Robinson Crusoe, who is stranded on a deserted island for 28 years.

“The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925) – This novel is considered a masterpiece of American literature and is a social commentary on the decadence and excess of the Roaring Twenties. It follows the story of Jay Gatsby, a wealthy and mysterious man, and his obsession with a woman named Daisy Buchanan.

- **Novella** A novella is a work of fiction that is shorter than a novel but longer than a short story. It typically has about 20,000 to 40,000 words.

While novels are usually about one main plot with several subplots, novellas are usually focused on one central conflict. This conflict is usually resolved by the end of the story. However, because novellas are longer than short stories, there is more room to develop characters and explore themes in depth.

Examples of novellas in literature:

“The Old Man and the Sea” by Ernest Hemingway (1952) – This novella is a Pulitzer Prize-winning story of an aging Cuban fisherman named Santiago and his epic struggle to catch a giant marlin. It is a testament to the resilience and determination of the human spirit.

“The Metamorphosis” by Franz Kafka (1915) – This novella is a surreal and disturbing tale of a man named Gregor Samsa, who wakes up one morning to find himself transformed into a giant insect. It explores themes of isolation, identity, and the human condition.

“Animal Farm” by George Orwell (1945) – This novella is a satirical allegory of the Russian Revolution and the rise of Stalinism. It follows the story of a group of farm animals who overthrow their human owner and create their own society, only to be corrupted by their own leaders. It is a cautionary tale about the dangers of totalitarianism and propaganda.

- **Short story** A short story is a brief fictional prose narrative that is shorter than a novel. In contemporary fiction, a short story can range from 1,000 to 20,000 words. Because of the shorter length, a short story usually focuses on one plot, one main character (with a few additional minor characters), and one central theme.

Examples of short stories in literature *(add some short stories you have read and found interesting):*

Drama A drama is a type of narrative writing that is **meant to be performed in front of an audience**. Dramas are most notably performed **as plays in a theatre** though many dramas have been recreated and adapted for film, TV, or radio. Drama is a type of literature that tells a story through the use of dialogue and action. It often has a strong plot and characters who undergo change or development over the course of the story. **Drama can be divided into several genres**, such as **tragedy, comedy, and farce**.

Examples of dramas in literature:

“Hamlet” by William Shakespeare (1603) – This tragedy is considered one of the greatest plays ever written. It tells the story of Prince Hamlet of Denmark and his quest for revenge against his uncle, who murdered his father and married his mother.